

Global Public Goods: Identifying the top 10—and how to provide them

*Providing Global Public Goods: Managing Globalization** identifies the 10 most urgently needed global public goods and presents a new framework through which they can be provided more efficiently in the context of evolving globalization.

The new study contributes to the globalization debate by advancing beyond the accepted emphasis on private-sector initiatives and benefits to focus new attention on the “publicness” of the globalization process.

Asserting that there is a critical link between globalization and the provision of global public goods, the study calls for a new political process that sets priorities at a global level through the strengthening of international policy-making and decision-making mechanisms. Such mechanisms, the study says, are essential if an increasingly interdependent human community is to provide global public goods efficiently, equitably, and adequately.

Using the *Road Map* report on the implementation of the UN Millennium Declaration as its starting point, *Providing Global Public Goods* focuses on 10 global goods that we are challenged to finance, produce, and provide:

- Basic human dignity for all people, including universal access to basic education and health care.
- Respect for national sovereignty.
- Global public health, particularly communicable disease control.
- Global security or, put differently, a global public domain free from crime and violence.
- Global peace.
- Communication and transportation systems harmonized across borders.
- Institutional infrastructure harmonized across borders to foster such goals as market efficiency, universal human rights, transparent and accountable

**Providing Global Public Goods: Managing Globalization*, edited by Inge Kaul, Pedro Conceição, Katell Le Goulven and Ronald U. Mendoza, Oxford University Press, New York, 2003. The issues covered by this briefing note are dealt with in the chapter “How to Improve the Provision of Global Public Goods”, by Inge Kaul, Pedro Conceição, Katell Le Goulven and Ronald U. Mendoza.

- governance, and harmonization of technical standards.
- ∩ Concerted management of knowledge, including worldwide respect for intellectual property rights.
 - ∩ Concerted management of the global natural commons to promote their sustainable use.
 - ∩ Availability of international arenas for multilateral negotiations between states as well as between state and non-state actors.

The study then identifies these essential challenges to providing the global public goods that are essential:

Fostering the signature, ratification, and implementation of existing agreements. Most if not all of the 10 global public goods listed above rest on multilateral agreements. Yet many of these agreements lack even the first steps toward implementation: signature and ratification by all concerned nation-states.

Promoting efficient management of global knowledge. Many global public goods, such as climate stability and the control of communicable diseases, require balanced access to available knowledge. Effective and efficient knowledge management is a crucial input to the provision of global public goods.

Making basic education and health care globally public by design. One of the study's core points is that what is public and what is private are matters of choice and public policy. It is in this context that the study argues for the designation of education and healthcare not only as public goods in the traditional sense but as global public goods. Education and healthcare are essential to the successful provision of almost every other public good—and to the enjoyment of private goods.

Strengthening international policymaking arenas. One of the key issues in providing and financing global public goods involves the lack of opportunity and means for the public to voice its concerns and preferences. Thus, after a strong and healthy public, fair and well-functioning international arenas for consultation and decision-making could be considered the second basic element of the global public domain.

Providing Global Public Goods is a contribution to the development of a strategic approach to managing global challenges. After expanding the concept of public and private global goods, the study analyzes the political, economic, and financial aspects of a global system geared to producing and providing public goods both

efficiently and equitably. It argues for new thinking at the level of national governments, enhanced cooperation among nations, renovated international institutions, and innovative ways to combine public and private sector initiatives.

The book concludes with a series of case studies illustrating how the concept of global public goods has been applied in a variety of specific circumstances. Incorporating a “bottom-up” approach, these studies consider the question of global public goods from the perspective of the world’s poor while reconciling local and global benefits in the provision of global public goods.